



Unitarian Society of Hartford

February 8, 2023

Building Community Since 1830

50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

Tel: (860) 233-9897 • Email: hartforduusociety@gmail.com

www.ushartford.org

Office Administrator's Hours: Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Monday & Tuesday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday & Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Please email/call for an appointment.



*Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack, a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in.*
Lyric from *Anthem*, by Leonard Cohen

February 12, 2023: 10:30 a.m.

"Textured"

**Rev. Dr. Jan Carlsson-Bull, Pulpit Guest
Michael Michaud, Worship Associate
Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries**

Matters of the Heart:

Electronically by 9 a.m. Sunday: email HartfordUUHeart@gmail.com

In person – use MOH basket for written cards on Sunday morning

10:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship Service

Join us in ZOOM [here](#)

See Order of Service [here](#)

Closed captions are available.

Meeting ID: 931 0388 7934

Passcode: 128493

10:30 a.m. Religious Education in person

Annie Witzler, Interim RE Coordinator

11:30 a.m. – Coffee Hour immediately following the service, in person and ZOOM.

You can also watch the Sunday service at <https://vimeo.com/unitariansocietyhartford> or on the USH [Facebook](#) page.

Mask Update

Due to the drop in Covid cases in Hartford County, masking is currently optional. Our policy is to follow CDC Guidelines.



Rev. Dr. Jan Carlsson-Bull, Pulpit Guest

The Reverend Dr. Jan Carlsson-Bull holds both an M. Div. from Union Theological Seminary and a PhD. In Developmental Psychology. Her decades of UU ministry include seven years at the Unitarian Church of All Souls in New York City, where, among many other responsibilities, she provided pastoral care and trauma response in the wake of the events of 9/11/01. Rev. Jan later served congregations in Cohasset, MA; Kingston, NY; and Meriden, CT and has held leadership positions at both district and national levels of the UUA.

Michael Michaud, Worship Associate

Michael Michaud has been Unitarian Universalist since 2001. Originally a member of the UU Meeting House of Provincetown, he began attending services at the USH in 2021. Michael has a deep appreciation for the importance of mindfulness and meditation and is a certified yoga teacher. His spirituality is rooted in Eastern thought and nature.



Worship Calendar

Upcoming Services: Join us, in person or online.

February 19 – Title Pending, Rev. AJ Johnson Urban Hope Refuge Church, Hartford; GHIAA, Pulpit Guest/Rick Tsukada, Worship Associate

February 26 – *Love Will Guide Us*, Sally Rogers, Pulpit Guest/Sue Smolski, Worship Associate

March 5 – Title Pending, David Newton, Pulpit Guest/Rick Tsukada, Worship Associate

March 12 – Title Pending, Rev. Stephen Kendrick/Laurie Kelliher, Worship Associate

Sue Smolski

Worship Associate Coordinator



Welcome Team Sign-Up

Volunteer to be a greeter, usher, or to staff the welcome table this fall. Simple, rewarding short-term commitments helping extend hospitality to members and visitors. Use the Sign-Up Genius app [here](#) to be part of our Sunday Morning Welcome Team.



More You Can Do on Sunday

Here are some other things you can do once and be done – see Rick Tsukada or Laurie Kelliher if you're interested.

- Candle Bowl Lifter
- Chalice Lighter
- Sermon
- Reflection
- Welcome Table
- Summer Service Pulpit Guest
- Chancel Art

Request from the Caring Network

Our friend and member Peter Upton has recently moved to Brandywine Living in Litchfield.

The Caring Network is looking for volunteers to fetch him for Sunday services and return him to his new home. While one Sunday a month would be ideal, we would welcome anyone wishing to volunteer on a more occasional basis. Peter lives about a 55 minute drive from the Meeting House. If you wish to do this, please contact Janice Newton for details and arrangements.

Board Meeting Reminder ~

The February 2023 board meeting is Monday, February 13, 6:30 p.m. Zoom link [HERE](#)

Looking for a Minister ~ Update below:

In early January we posted our ad for a one-year contract minister. Contract ministers, unlike interims, are eligible for long-term hire if both the minister and the congregation feel they are a good fit. We hope to find a candidate who will be a full-time minister and part-time preacher. The Worship Associates will fill the pulpit on Sundays when the minister is not preaching. This is the type of shared ministry that Rev. Josh Pawelek has at UUS:E in Manchester and it has worked well for 20 years. You can hear Rev. Pawelek's interesting sermon on this topic by going to the sermon archives on the USH website and scrolling down to October 22, 2022.

We've had a few applicants so far but we expect everything to be up in the air for at least another month or two, perhaps longer. At the semi-annual meeting on February 19, you will be invited to say what you would like in a minister. Watch the eNews for updates as we move through this process!

~ Judy Robbins, Chair, Review Committee

- **Board note 2/8/23:**

During the last quarter of 2022, board members spent significant time developing the solicitation for a new minister. Last week and this, Judy Robbins outlines where we are in the search. If you would like to read the description developed with careful consideration of our history and needs, you can see it [here:](#)



CALLING ALL SINGERS!

**Do you enjoy singing,
and being with like-
minded people?**

**IF YES, the USH Choir is
looking for you!**

Our choir is looking to recruit
new members who love to
sing. With a large mix of

ability and experience, we aim to contribute positively within
our community through performing regularly during Sunday
services, as well as collaborating with other Unitarian
Universalist churches in the area.

All are welcome — NO auditions required!

Rehearsals are held every Thursday evening from 7:00 – 8:30
p.m. at the **USH Meeting House, 50 Bloomfield Avenue,
Hartford, CT 06105**

If interested in joining, or seeking more information, please
contact Sam Moffett, Director of Music at
smoffettuu@gmail.com

Art Around the Ambulatory

“For the Beauty of the Earth...”

A team of USH artists has agreed to serve as a subgroup of Building and Grounds to showcase primarily our own USH artists as well as others by invitation in our ambulatory around the outside of the sanctuary. Shows will change about every 2 or 3 months. Plan to arrive early, look, appreciate, and buy if you are inclined. A share of sales goes to USH. This effort demonstrates one way USH is the home of wonderful creativity. Team members are Diane Cadrain, chair, Martha Bradley,

Miriam Byroade, Tina Davies, Marye Gail Harrison, Beverly Spence, Sue Tenorio and Evan Williams. We have a new hanging system for our art that is easy to use and enhances our displays. Thanks to Evan Williams and the Building and Grounds subcouncil for this upgrade.

Further, Susan Hope and Evan Williams have rehung our beautiful chancel banners inside the sanctuary on the new hanging system for further beautification under our now well-lit “tent”.

~ *Marye Gail Harrison*

Social Justice



THE REACH FUND
OF CONNECTICUT

February Good Neighbor Offering **The REACH Fund of CT**

(Reproductive Equity, Access, and Choice)

The REACH Fund of Connecticut was founded in 2021 by a group of individuals who believe that healthcare is a human right and that abortion is an essential part of healthcare. They are an all-volunteer organization whose mission is to reduce financial barriers to abortion care in Connecticut by providing financial assistance to those who receive care here.

The Values of the REACH Fund embrace those of our Unitarian Universalist faith: Compassion, Inclusivity, Intersectionality, Equity, and Autonomy.

They recognize and acknowledge the ways in which decades of systemic racism and white supremacy have and continue to perpetuate harm and violence towards Black folks, Indigenous folks, and communities of color.

They are committed to addressing the ways in which racism, economic insecurity, and immigration status multiply the massive barriers to abortion care — and work to center and follow the leadership of communities that are disproportionately impacted by reproductive oppression towards solutions that transform abortion access alongside true racial, economic, and immigrant justice.

GHIAA in Action —

On February 3, members of the Education and Appropriations committees of the Connecticut State Legislature held hearings on House Bill 5003 which, if passed, will result in millions allocated toward remediating educational inequities in our state. This is an objective GHIAA teams have been working toward for several years. Judy Sullivan and Diana Heymann were there, and Diana testified both in a written statement and in person before the committees. Here is what she said:

"My name is Diana Heymann. I am a member of the Unitarian Society of Hartford which is also a member of GHIAA.

I'm asking you to vote "Yes" on H.B. 5003, An Act Concerning Education Funding in Connecticut because it will address longstanding injustice. Connecticut spends \$788 million more educating white students than students of color. The racial funding gap is growing, and we need to close that gap.

I'd like to tell you a story from my teaching experience in Hartford.

I co-taught a kindergarten class during the 2004–2005 academic year, a time of enlightened programming for some of Hartford's students. As a result of the "experiment", this class of 8 students with varying degrees of handicapping conditions combined with 10 neighborhood students at SAND School, achieved end of year scores that compared equally and in some cases exceeded the scores of the other two kindergarten classes. Even though our success was remarkable and lauded by the Hartford BOE and Superintendent, the program was terminated for lack of funding. All the enrolled Special Ed Students returned to their home schools and the SAND students integrated into traditional 1st grade classrooms.

We, the teachers of this extraordinary group, saw each child as uniquely talented and watched as each thrived and grew to view themselves as powerful students ready to blossom as lifelong learners. We shared that this collaborative year was for each of us the pinnacle of our teaching experiences and then grieved as we watched the remaining SAND students lose the wonderful spark that marked the start of their educational journey.

The story could be different for future Hartford learners if racial funding gaps are closed and innovative programs such as herein described, become the norm.

Again, I ask for your help to make Hartford and Connecticut more just and equitable places to live and grow.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue."

Below: Diana Heymann and Judy Sullivan, in the lobby of the Legislative Office Building (LOB).



West Hartford Food Bank Information

The West Hartford Food Bank is located at West Hartford Town Hall.

Here are this week's needs:

Tuna – almost out

Canned chicken

Baked beans

Rice – 1 lb. packages

Pasta.

Check your local needs by going online. Some towns have multiple donation sites.
Please give as you are able! Thanks!

Grocery bags are now being collected outside the office door.

~Diana Heymann

RE and Chalice Clubhouse



Feel the Love at USH!



It's wintertime in Connecticut and there's fun at USH! We have exciting opportunities available for ages 0–18! Sign up online [here](#) or on Sundays in person at the welcome table.

Please note: children and youth who wish to participate in RE programming should report directly to their classes when they arrive. Locations for all classes are indicated in red under each category.

The Sprouts Nursery (Ages Infant – Pre-K)

Our nursery is open to all infants, young children, and their families. There are toys, books, art supplies, and plenty of room for imagination to grow free.

We have dedicated personnel and volunteers to supervise every week, and the best part? You can now listen and participate in the service while you're there! Nursery go-ers can listen to the service and even participate in our Candles of Memory and Hope ritual.

Come visit any Sunday and never miss a single sermon...

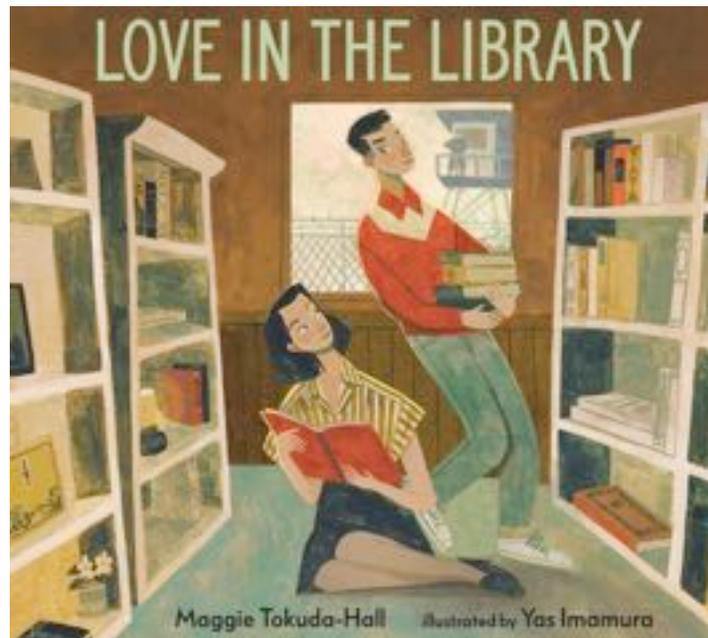
Located downstairs adjacent to Fellowship Hall.



In The Chalice Clubhouse (Grades K – 6)

Last weekend, our clubhouse goers began a special Valentine's Day-themed project inspired by the book *Love in The Library* by Maggie Tokuda-Hall. It tells the powerful love

story of a young couple falling in love in a prison camp during the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II. It reminds us of how love is truly the sustainment we need in our lives, through times of happiness and hardship.



This story is reflective of both our 2nd (justice, equity, and compassion in human relations) and 6th (the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all) Unitarian Universalist principles. All human beings experience love in different ways and need it in their lives, and to deny his basic human right is one of the greatest forms of injustice imaginable. As UUs, we stand for equality for all, and learning of the injustices of the past is a powerful tool to inform our consciousness for the present and future.

To celebrate the upcoming holiday, we began to make our very own Book of Love containing pictures and lists of what the children in our RE program love. We will be continuing

this project this weekend, February 12, and have our story available for any who didn't get to hear it last weekend.

We hope to see you in Fellowship Hall at 10:30 am!

USH Youth Group (Grades 6th-12th)



This Sunday, February 12, our Youth Group will meet for their fifth session of 2023 (and there will be snacks!) They will be continuing to work on their new youth room, Classroom C in Fellowship Hall, and holding a discussion forum.

We hope to see you **downstairs in Fellowship Hall at 10:30 am!**

Events & Happenings

Monthly Gatherings

Pizza and Movie Nights – Join us, **Friday February 10**, for conversation, pizza, a movie, and more conversation (about the movie). Movies are recommended by your friends at USH who have found them interesting, perhaps provocative, and worth seeing. The February feature,, just in time for Valentine's Day, is *I'm Your Man*: a 2021 release which might be categorized as a sci-fi-AI-fantasy-rom-com. It's a German film, with English sub-titles, and is rated "R" (with adult content). Sign up at the Caring Network table at coffee hour, or email [Janice Newton](mailto:JaniceNewton@ush.org) to register. \$15 covers pizza, salad, dessert, non-alcoholic beverages. Feel free to bring your own beer or wine, if that's your preference.

Generally, we begin gathering at 5 for libations and conversation. The pizza arrives at 5:30; we aim to start the movie

Second Saturday Sing-Along – February 11

Join us at the next Meeting House Sing-Along — Fred Louis and Ed Savage offer an opportunity to join in song on the second Saturday of each month from 2 to 5 p.m. Song sheets and some loaner copies of Rise Up Singing will be available. Bring along your own 'Rise Up Singing' if you have one, as we have used it a lot in other months. We will also use the NEW “Rise Again” sequel – 1200 more songs to sample.

Contact: Fred Louis (FLouis@yahoo.com) or Ed Savage 860-966-8155 (mobile) (EdSavage03@yahoo.com)

The Lunch Bunch – Our next gathering is **Tuesday, FEBRUARY 21, at NOON in Fellowship Hall**. Please brown-bag *your own* lunch and

beverage... you'll ensure having something you enjoy! We plan to talk about AI (artificial intelligence) and how its ubiquity is changing how educators are fashioning their classroom activities. Please contact janicecnewton@gmail.com to sign up so we can arrange enough places at the table.

Social Justice – Interested in justice work? Come meet with us to learn the latest about ongoing activities and discover new initiatives. Our next ZOOM meeting is **Tuesday, FEBRUARY 21, 7 – 8 p.m.** Everyone's invited... contact [Judy Sullivan](mailto:Judy.Sullivan) for information.

Disability Support Group —

This group meets online the first Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m. The zoom link is sent a few days prior to the meeting. In this group participants discuss the challenges of physical disability (chronic illness, chronic pain, impaired senses, impaired mobility) and emotional pain (loss, mental illness) and the stresses of caretaking a loved one. What is said in the group stays in the group. Email **Gloria Bent** for more information at bentgloria@gmail.com or call **860-904-7768**.

INVITATION FROM THE BOOK GROUP

*Our UU Book Group invites you to join us in reading our February selection – **The Premonition by Michael Lewis (see preview* below).***

Enjoy the reading.

If you want to participate in (or listen to) a discussion of the book and related issues, join us on Thursday, February 9th at 2:30, by Zoom.

Please contact Ginny Allen at fiddlenurse1@gmail.com if you'd like more information or if you want to join. An email with Zoom link will be sent a day or two before the meeting.

Book Selections 2022/23

Second Thursday of each month

*February 9 – **The Premonition by Michael Lewis***

*March 9 – **The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles***

*April 13 – **Power: The limits and prospects for human survival**
by **Richard Heinberg***

*May 11 – **Beloved by Toni Morrison***

June 8 – The Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate

July 13 – Matrix by Lauren Groff

August 10 – Mismeasure of Man by Stephen J Gould

*Our February selection:

The Premonition by Michael Lewis

For those who could read between the lines, the censored news out of China was terrifying. But the president insisted there was nothing to worry about. Fortunately, we are still a nation of skeptics. Fortunately, there are those among us who study pandemics and are willing to look unflinchingly at worst-case scenarios.

Michael Lewis's taut and brilliant nonfiction thriller pits a band of medical visionaries against the wall of ignorance that was the official response of the Trump administration to the outbreak of COVID-19.

The characters you will meet in these pages are as fascinating as they are unexpected. Michael Lewis is not shy about calling these people heroes for their refusal to follow directives that they know to be based on misinformation and bad science.

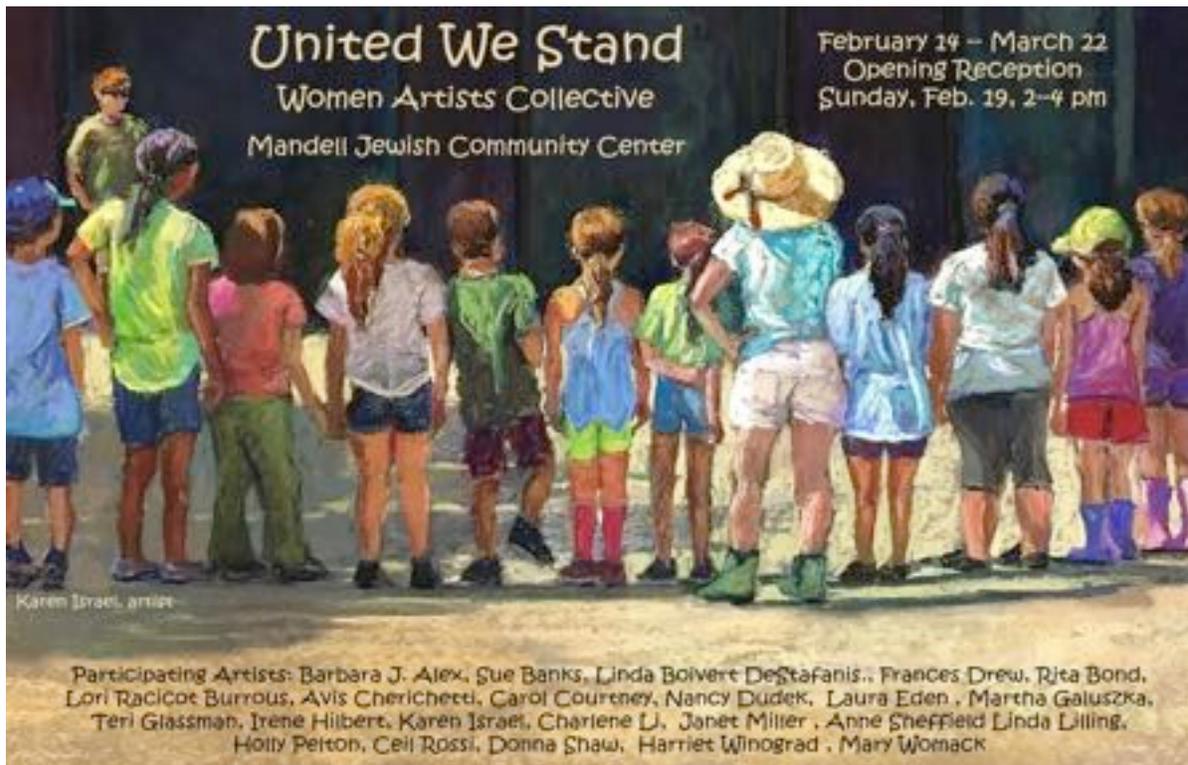
Caring Network

The Caring Network has had a number of requests for Pastoral Care during the past few months. Generally, we have been able to reach out to the individuals and meet their needs.

However, there are situations when contact with a minister is preferred. If you wish to speak to a minister, please contact me and I will give you the contact information. You can reach me by phone (860/212-6923), by email (janicecnewton(at sign)gmail.com) or see me on Sunday. I will usually be at the Caring Network table at the entrance to Fellowship Hall. Please also know there is a wide range of community services available to those in need by calling the Community Info Line at **211**, and

the Nationwide Mental Health Crisis and Suicide Prevention hotline is available by calling or texting **988**, where you can speak with a counselor ~ Janice Newton, Chair

In and Around Greater Hartford



The latest financial reports for **FY Nov-Dec 2021** have been posted, click [HERE](#) to view.

The **2021/22 Annual Report** is available [HERE](#)

The Board Meeting minutes for **November and December 2022, and January 2023** have been posted. To view the USH Directory, Reports, meeting minutes and other church business information online, click [HERE](#). Contact Karolina Wojtyska at hartforduusociety@gmail.com for the username and password.

2022 – 2023 USH Board of Directors

Eve Pech: President

Dana Donovan: President-Elect

Jon Covault: Treasurer

Sarah Harmon McKenzie: Secretary

Peter Meny: Spiritual Life Council Chair

Paul Cipriano: Administration Council Chair

Judy Sullivan: Social Justice Council Chair

Tina Davies: Community Within Council Chair

The February 2023 board meeting is Monday, February 13, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom link [HERE](#) and in the USH calendar via this [LINK](#)

Missed Last Week's Enews? Click Below:

<http://www.ushartford.org/nourishing-spirit/newsletters/>

See Articles and News for USH and the Surrounding Area you may have missed or find a link to the USH Facebook Page [HERE](#).

Please consult our Online Calendar regularly for all upcoming events coordinated by the Unitarian Society of

Hartford: www.ushartford.org/events/

To submit a Calendar Request (also for an online USH Zoom Room gathering) click [HERE](#).

E-News Contributors please note: The deadline for USH E-News submissions is *Tuesday at 12 Noon*. Please include the dates that your submission should be featured in the 'Subject' field. Announcements about upcoming events typically appear for two consecutive weeks maximum, unless other arrangements have been made with the editorial team. Articles should be sent as email file attachments, and images need to be sent separately as jpeg, jpg, png, tiff, bmp, or gif files. Thanks for cooperating.

USH Staff:**<http://www.ushartford.org/staff-members/>**

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Annie Witzler, Interim Religious Education Coordinator
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Patty Peck, Bookkeeper, Office or Phone by Appointment
ushtreasurer50@gmail.com 860-233-9897 ext. 102

Karolina Wojtysko, Office Administrator & Building Rentals
hartfordusociety@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 100

**USH Calendar of Events**

The calendar
 for February 2023 can be
 viewed **[HERE](#)**.

Please contact the office
 with any questions or
concerns.

The deadline for USH Enews submissions is
Tuesday at Noon.

Please note in the subject line "USH Enews." Thank you for your submission!

Email to: **hartfordusociety@gmail.com**



Photo by: Kevin Girouard January 2023

www.ushartford.org